



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
District of New Hampshire*

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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**PLAISTOW MAN PLEADS TO MAIL FRAUD**

**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE** – United States Attorney Tom Colantuono and Inspector in Charge of the United States Postal Service Boston Division Kenneth R. Jones report that Luke Maurier, age 23, of Plaistow, New Hampshire, pled guilty today to mail fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341.

The plea was the result of an investigation conducted by the United States Postal Service which revealed Maurier diverted the mail matter of numerous individuals residing in Massachusetts to his post office box in Plaistow, New Hampshire. After Maurier diverted the mail, he obtained personal identification information from the mail sent to his post office box and then applied for and received credit cards in his victims' names.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono reminds the public, "Identity theft is on the increase and consumers often become victims of identity theft without having any direct contact with the identity thieves who acquire their personal data. If you become a victim of identity theft, you should take three immediate steps. First, contact your bank. Second, report the matter to the police. Third, report your identity theft case immediately to the FTC and to credit reporting agencies: Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. By reporting these crimes, you will be assisting law enforcement agencies in compiling information on identity theft to identify theft trends and patterns."

The crime of mail fraud carries a maximum prison term of twenty (20) years and a fine of \$250,000. The case was investigated by the Manchester, New Hampshire Office of the United States Postal Service. Sentencing is scheduled to occur on June 29, 2004. Assistant U.S. Attorney Terry Ollila is prosecuting this case.